

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01

SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

IO-13 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 CEA-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SS-15 /112 W

----- 046687

R 101116Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9451

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 16422

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, OECD, IN

SUBJECT: INDIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD UNCTAD LINER CODE

REF: OECD PARIS 33142

1. GERMAN NOTE CONCERNING INDIAN AND SRI LANKAN PROPOSAL THAT SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS OF UNCTAD CODE HOLD INFORMAL MEETING GIVES ADDED SIGNIFICANCE TO REMARKS WHICH MINISTER OF STATE FOR SHIPPING H.M. TRIVEDI MADE LAST WEEK IN BOMBAY.

2. GIST OF TRIVEDI'S REMARKS, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORT, WAS THAT FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT CODE WOULD FORCE INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO ADOPT A POLICY OF "CANALIZATION OF CARGOES TO NATIONAL BOTTOMS." THIS WOULD BE INEVITABLE IF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES "FAILED TO TAKE COGNIZANCE OF THE SPIRIT IN WHICH THE CODE...WAS ADOPTED." ARTICLES QUOTES TRIVEDI AS SAYING, OF CURRENT SITUATION, "ACTION TOWARDS ENFORCING THE CODE

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ON ONE HAND IS ACCOMPANIED BY ACTION WHICH REDUCES THE FLEXIBILITY

WORKED INTO THE CODE. THIS IN OUR VIEW IS NOT A WHOLESOME SITUATION. THIS PROCESS CAN BE REVERSED ONLY BY BRINGING THE CODE INTO FORCE."

3. IN ORDER TO AVOID SERIES OF UNILATERAL ACTIONS, TRIVEDI SAID, WE MUST PROCEED TO FIND MEANS FOR A DIALOGUE IN THE "VERY NEAR FUTURE" WITHIN THE UNCTAD FRAMEWORK. HE THOUGHT SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY WAS LIKELY IN THE MIDDLE OF NEXT YEAR. "IT SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO PASS WITHOUT ARRIVING AT AN UNDERSTANDING."

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE LONG WONDERED WHY INDIANS HAVE HELD OFF RATIFYING THE LINER CODE. MOST RECENT EXPLANATION FROM GOI OFFICIAL WAS THAT CODE REQUIRED IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION WHICH WAS IN PROCESS OF PREPARATION. THERE HAVE BEEN NO INTIMATIONS HERE THAT INDIANS WERE CONSIDERING REOPENING THE CODE, ALTHOUGH BRITISH HAD HEARD THAT GOI OFFICIAL TRAVELING IN EUROPE (PERHAPS TRIVEDI HIMSELF) HAD SAID SOMETHING ALONG THESE LINES. WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO SEEK MEETING WITH MINISTRY OFFICIALS TO GET THEIR VIEWS. IF DEPARTMENT IS INCLINED TO REJECT PROPOSAL, HOWEVER, IT MIGHT PREFER TO LET MATTER BE HANDLED INDIRECTLY THROUGH GERMANS. PLEASE ADVISE.
SAXBE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, POLICIES, STANDARDS, MARINE TRANSPORTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE16422
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760419-0758
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761162/aaaacbwo.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 OECD PARIS 33142
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by hartledg>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD UNCTAD LINER CODE
TAGS: EWWT, IN, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006